

Appendix C – Public Input: Emails and Letters

From: peghep [peghep@alumni.umass.edu]
Sent: Monday, July 04, 2005 3:34 PM
To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)
Subject: Uses of the Quabbin watershed land

Dear Sirs:

We understand that you are soliciting public ideas about the future uses of the Quabbin reservation, and since that area is a very precious resource in our area (we are from Pelham), we want to add our thoughts.

As a large unspoiled forested area, full of interesting historical traces such as roads, stone walls, cellar holes, and the occasional lilac bush or patch of daffodils, it is one of our favorite places to walk. We marvel at the wildlife and plants we can observe there, and at the edge of the water, we see a huge almost Western sky, a rare sight in New England. Such a large tract with so many trails to explore offers Massachusetts residents an unparalleled opportunity to experience quiet, solitude, and the bounty of our natural surroundings. As a large tract, it creates a preserve for those species of birds and animals that do not thrive in the patchwork of woods and development which typifies much of the state.

We would be horrified to have the area more heavily logged or clearcut, hoping that sustainable forestry, respecting the diversity of our native forests, would be the goal in its management.

We have always wondered why skiing is not permitted, since cross-country winter exploration would have no negative impact on the land. We strongly urge this restriction to be lifted.

We would also welcome the ability to canoe on the reservoir. Motor boats, which are permitted, are polluting. Canoes are not, and the opportunity to be on the water would give us much pleasure.

Respectfully yours,

Peter and Margaret Hepler

Quarry Road, RR2
Pelham, MA 01002

From: Anne Perkins [aperkie@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 8:11 PM

To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)

Subject: comment

To DCR:

Clearly kayaking and canoeing should be allowed in the Quabbin. It's crazy from an environmental perspective to allow motor boats with their polluting gas and oil motors, but not to allow canoes and kayaks. Do you test motor boat drivers to see if they are experienced enough not to flip their boats? Smart enough not to pollute the water more than they already do?

As one who has often hiked in the Quabbin, I propose that motor boats be disallowed for both their gas/oil pollution and their noise pollution. The loons don't like them!

Canoers and kayakers will not pollute the water with noise or petroleum products. Neither will bicycles.

Anne Perkins

From: Robert Reger [rreger@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2005 11:53 AM
To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)
Subject: Quabbin access--survey
Hello,

I came to this site looking for a survey about future use of the Quabbin as mentioned in the *Greenfield Recorder*. Having found no such place I thought I would give you my opinion. I live in Athol, MA and have been using the Quabbin area for some 45 years. My belief is leave it alone, where it is right now. More people = more trash.

I think of the Quabbin as a wildlife sanctuary, the home of many rare species of all kinds of flora & fauna. You opened it for several deer kills and to logging. Neither of which I could understand why.

When I go into the Quabbin the only things I take out are pictures and leave with whatever I came with. Please NO SNOWMOBILES----leave it alone---it's not a state park, it's a water supply.

Kind regards,
Robert Reger
143 Walnut St.
Athol, MA 01331

From: Steve Gross [SGross@chd.org]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2005 4:01 PM
To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)
Subject: More access for recreation

I am writing to advocate for increased access particularly for kayaking and canoeing and sailing throughout the Quabbin. Certainly the output areas can be protected while significantly expanding use areas for non-pollutting activities

I am a 30 year resident of Wendell MA and an avid hiker, kayaker, sailor, and bicyclist. Myself and many of my friends who live in the area love the outdoors and want more ability to respectfully use the area around the Quabbin.

I am aware of many reservoirs around the country that provide extensive recreational opportunities to the citizenry without compromising water quality in the process. In addition, the controversial history surrounding the origins of the Quabbin add to the local belief that the state could do much more for the people in this area in exchange for the enormous contribution the Quabbin makes to the rest of the state. The fact that fishing has been the primary recreational activity for so many years has felt prejudicial to many who prefer to recreate in other ways. The fact that you cannot rent a boat without also getting a fishing license is absurd. I hope you will do the right thing and open up this magnificent area to those of us who will respect and enjoy it Steven Gross

From: Adele Smith-Penniman [asmithpen@net1plus.com]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2005 7:13 PM
To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)
Subject: Public Access to Quabbin

Thank you for considering ways to open the beautiful Quabbin for public enjoyment. I encourage you to consider allowing road bikes on more roads, cross-country skiing on paths, and kayaking and row boating on more water areas. I remember the first time I went biking in the Quabbin, not realizing there was a ban. I was on a road that at one time had been paved when a DRC truck stopped me. Which has more impact, a road bike or a motor vehicle! And I remain baffled why snow shoeing is allowed (or so I believe) but not cross-country skiing. I can understand prohibiting non-motorized boats from open bodies of water where the current could be a factor, but why ban them from inlets and coves? Thank you again for working on making the Quabbin more accessible for passive recreation.

191 Wickett Pond Road
Wendell, MA 01379

From: Lloyd [lloydbrookssr@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2005 9:31 AM
To: Publicinput, Quabbin (DCR)
Subject: Snowmobile Access On DCR

I'm writing to express my support for snowmobile access on DCR lands in general and in New Salem in particular. There are many snowmobilers in New Salem. Snowmobile trails on DCR lands would be a wonderful opportunity to expand the existing trail system in New Salem and Athol and link to the trails in Shutesbury and other towns. I'm a member of the Porcupine Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club, Greater Whately Snowmobile Club, Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts(SAM).

Lloyd Brooks
10 Ellis Drive
New Salem, MA 01355
978-544-5570

From: Joseph S. Larson [mailto:larsonstei.umass.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2005 2:50 PM
To: William Pula
Subject: Public Access - Quabbin

Bill:

I will not be able to attend the workshop for the Quabbin Public Access Plan on April 12 but I have some suggestions that I would like considered. If you could forward these to the right people I would appreciate it.

I have corresponded and talked with with you in the past about access through Gate 7 (Kimball Street, Belchertown) especially for scouting Zone D before the controlled deer hunt. In the fall of 2004 I had a long and warm discussion with Chuck Walker, the owner of the private land at Gate 7. He is adamantly opposed to increased public access through Gate 7. His request the Town of Belchertown has placed a "No Parking" on the town's Kimball Street right-of-way at the Quabbin boundary.

I believe that there should be a designated parking place at each Gate where walk-in access is allowed, but at this point I am not going to press the Gate 7 access issue further. I do have a recommendation that I think should be considered in the Quabbin Plan.

When you distribute maps for the deer hunt it would be useful to indicate at each gate whether or not there is a place to park to walk in at the gate. If you plan to create access maps for other users I think the parking information would be useful so that people do not encounter or create problems for the operation of Quabbin or adjacent landowners.
Joe Larson

--
Joseph S. Larson, Member
Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board
27 Arnold Road
Pelham, Massachusetts 01002-9757
<http://myprofile.cos.com/larson358>



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPDEN,
HAMPSHIRE AND FRANKLIN
DISTRICT
ROOM 109B

TEL. (617) 722-1540

FAX (617) 722-1078

Stephen.Brewer@massmail.state.ma.us

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY, (VICE-CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

April 12, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I apologize for not being able to attend tonight's workshop on public access at the Quabbin Reservoir. As I am sure many of you are aware, I am a strong supporter of maintaining public access to the Quabbin Reservoir surrounding watershed areas. While it has been a challenge over the last few years, I believe that it is possible to balance safety of the water supply with the utilization of the Quabbin for recreational purposes.

As Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security as well as a member of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, I know it is difficult to maintain safety and security at the Quabbin while making the reservoir and its surrounding areas available for citizens to enjoy. As the Quabbin is used as a water supply for the Greater Boston area, there are many consumers who are concerned about the protection of their water supply. Since September 11, 2001 and with the continued potential threat of biological warfare, it has become increasingly important to everyone in the Commonwealth to feel protected.

With that said, I believe that everyone's dedication is needed to help preserve public access to the Quabbin. The Quabbin has remained near and dear to my heart for decades now. The families of Central Massachusetts gave up so much when four towns were disestablished to create the Quabbin Reservoir. I believe that for the families still remaining in the area, public access is necessary to feel connected to the area that was once home of their ancestors.

Furthermore, the beauty of nature is accurately displayed at the Quabbin. I wish for future generations to be able to share in the pristine beauty that the Quabbin offers, as we can today with our families. I believe that maintaining public access is in the best interest of all outdoor enthusiasts. With the cooperation of the public, the Quabbin can continue to be an outdoor, year round source of pastoral beauty and solace for those of us who remain young at heart.

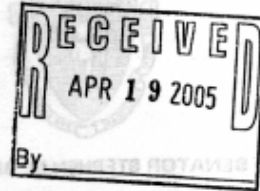
I can ensure you all here tonight that I will continue to advocate for public access at the Quabbin. I believe that the a Public Access and Recreational Management Plan will be a large step to guarantee the safety of the water supply as well as the enjoyment of those who wish to utilize access to the Quabbin Reservoir.

Sincerely,


STEPHEN M. BREWER
State Senator
SMB/ks



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053



SENATOR STEPHEN M. BREWER

WORCESTER, HAMPTON,
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DISTRICT

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TEL. (617) 722-1640

FAX (617) 722-1078

Stephen.Brewer@massmail.state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:

BILLS IN THIRD READING, (CHAIR)

VETERANS AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS, (CHAIR)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY, (VICE-CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE

April 14, 2005

William Pula, Superintendent
Division of Water Supply Protection
Department of Conservation and Recreation
485 Ware Road
PO Box 628
Belchertown, MA 01007

Dear Superintendent Pula: *Bill*

I am writing to follow up on the Tuesday, April 12, 2005 Quabbin Public Access Workshop that was held at the Chestnut Hill School in Belchertown.

Though I could not attend the workshop, I commend you for including the public in the early stages of formulating a new access plan to the Quabbin. My aide, Jackie Connolly, read a letter of support on the Quabbin in lieu of my absence. I would like to provide you with a copy for your records (see enclosed).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns. As you know, the Quabbin is near and dear to my heart, and I would be pleased to help out in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. BREWER

State Senator

SMB/jdc

Enclosure



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

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TEL. (617) 722-2575
FAX. (617) 722-2238

October 13, 2005

Mr. Bill Pula, Regional Director
DCR/Watershed Management
485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007

Dear Bill

Thank you for holding a workshop on Public Access and Recreation for the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed in the Town of Petersham. I am unable to join you this evening due to a prior commitment, however, I did attend the first public workshop and I was impressed with both the attendance and the level of interest. There is no question that the Quabbin is a gem in the Commonwealth and the goal of balancing public access, recreation, preserving the historical significance while properly respecting the sacrifices of those families that inhabited the four lost Quabbin towns is a worthy undertaking.

I thank you for your continued interest and stewardship of the area and I know that you will receive important input at tonight's hearing. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours truly,

Anne Gobi
State Representative
5th Worcester District

Thanks Bill

To; Mr. William E. Pula, Regional Director
Of the Quabbin and Ware River Watersheds
Conservation & Recreation.

October 17, 2005

From; Salvatore Morelli
27 Water Street
Leicester, Ma. 01524

Subject; Comment on Public Access to the Quabbin Reservoir Areas

Dear Mr.Pula,

I want to express some of my ideas regarding public access to the Quabbin Reservoir Areas. I realize there are very compelling reasons to protect this resource from pollution and other potential harm, such as forest fires etc.

However; I also believe that properly managed this resource could also be expanded as a net financial gain for the commonwealth. I for one would be more than happy to pay a \$10 entrance fee to access some of the forest areas simply for hiking.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to participate in the Quabbin Deer hunt at the New Salem Area. I was fortunate enough to discover Rattlesnake Hill and find an amazing lookout which is on par with the Grand Canyon. Looking out over the panorama one would believe they were in the wild wilderness of centuries gone by. I would love to be able to take my grandchildren to this spot simply to view this amazing site in our own back yard. However presently that is impossible with the restrictions of access.

I know the logistics of more access will require more oversight of some sort of enforcement such as Park Rangers. However it would create more opportunities for hikers to enjoy a spectacular resource, with very little impact on the environment.

The Commonwealth could also require one to participate in a pre- requisite training session (for a fee); before being allowed access to the trails and forest areas. Similar to the free one for the deer hunt.

I enjoyed and value, the opportunities I have had, to fish and hunt in the Quabbin and wish I could hike these areas with the rest of my family. So I hope you give consideration to expand access to the Quabbin trails and roads just for hiking and possibly cross country skiing.

Sincerely, Mr. Sal Morelli

Sal Morelli

10-17-05

To: DCR
Public Access
485 Waver Rd
Belchardown.

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking public comment about access to our beautiful Quabbin Reservoir. I very often walk there.

2 comments:

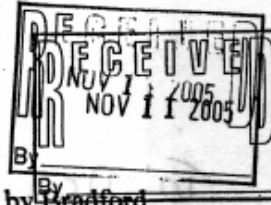
① Occasional (guided?) access to the Prescott Peninsula + S College Observatory. Seems like a beautiful part of the Quabbin.

② I still do not understand why bicycles are not allowed but motor boats are - why kayakers are not allowed but motor boats are??

Thank you.
Ruth Mazurka
3 Blueberry Lane
Wendell, MA 01379

Mr. William Pula: Regional Director
Quabbin Visitor Center – 485 Ware Road
PO Box 628
Belchertown, Mass. 01007

October 31, 2005



Dear Mr. Pula:

I am responding to the WTAG article recently in the paper by Bradford Miner of the T&G staff: "Greater Access to Quabbin Sought". Us public figures opposed to these requests see it as largely selfish. I have – as well as thousands (many more than those representing such requests) have a "self-interest" too: we want to see it preserved more in a natural sense for the benefit of nature, if you will, and to shoot not with a gun – but a camera.

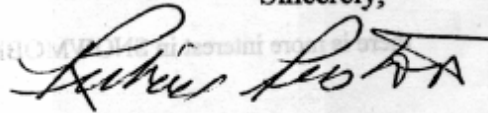
Honestly, why don't we leave it alone? That is, preserve it for the simple love of nature. Nowhere in southern New England – Rhode Island, Connecticut, the so-called remote areas of the Berkshires – is there such a large mass of wilderness left like that of the Quabbin. What in the world are we forgetting here? The Quabbin is a reservoir, not a recreational land mass, which it seems to be increasingly regarded as. Nearly three-quarters of the state depends on the Quabbin, with the Wachusett and Sudbury system, for their drinking water. That's a delicate thing to think about, and it should be primarily viewed as such. I fear it's being thought of less and less in that capacity and more of as something to institute pleasure. The pleasure is in its natural state, not in its recreational potential.

Something else alarms me more – much more than the snowmobilers (although they cause me great fears too): the fishermen. I observed one of them once near the north shore at the end of Gate 33 urinating over the boat. I've been told by a few other people who are avid hikers in the reservation, that they have witnessed similar incidents. The one statement, however, that frightened me the most came from a well-known outdoor enthusiast, who furiously defended the port-a-lets inside the reservation because he observed a man defecating over the boat-side. But I saw this particular fellow urinating long after the port-a-lets were placed. Some people just aren't going to take the time to anchor their boats at shore's edge to go to a port-a-let. Most of the fishermen I'm sure are conscientious, but even the scant incidents of relieving oneself in the reservoir waters is cause for serious concern. And – damn it! – it's still happening! I know! I've been hiking the Quabbin for some 30 years. I've caught people in there wearing hunting jackets driving deer. I happened upon a fellow once with a rifle, silencer on the end, with his girl friend, both attired in hunting jackets, undoubtedly

looking for game. I caught a fellow with his hunting friends in the reservation with a rifle at dusk, suddenly catching me watching them, then rushing back toward the gate. I've found rubbish along the trails that seems to be accumulating more as the Quabbin is increasingly opened up for recreation. There was a group once called "Friends of Quabbin", which I was very dubious of, because they didn't strike me as friends of the Quabbin at all, but more as exploiters.

Well, sir, I want to inform you that I intend to have a one-hour talk format on the TV show I host in Worcester, on WCCA-TV, *Worcester Today*, with two notable guests who are primarily anti-public access (certainly not by way of the proposals now being sought) sometime before Christmas. We are very disturbed by these self-interest groups and will certainly be extremely vocal about it. When the show's finished, copies will also be sent to SPAC (Shrewsbury Public Access Cable), A-O Cable (Athol-Orange Access), FPAC (Fitchburg Public Access), LPAC (Leominster Public Access Cable), Rutland-Hubbardston Public Access, to name some. Also I'm sending a copy of this letter to Senator Kerry. I hope that our voice will be heard equally as strong as the those groups that want the Quabbin mainly for the pursuit of their recreational pleasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Preston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name being particularly prominent.

Richard W. Preston
77 Malden Street
West Boylston, Mass. 01583
Host: Worcester today, WCCA-TV
508-835-1715

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated October 27, 2005

Briefly:

My true concerns are Quabbin. That is all we have in Central Mass.

Proper forestry could generate deer and other wildlife as in the past.

Forester Spencer is far more interested in filling Mass coffers.

As for the Quabbin to again be a fishery like the 60's and early 70's is only a dream. Seems to me there is more interest in SNOWMOBILES.!!!

Sincerely,

Alfred Robitaille

Box 335

West Brookfield, Ma. 01595

*sorry for the delay
I just returned from my winter
home that was devastated by "Wilma"*